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MEN'S TENNIS



Pirates Place Five Singles Players, Three Doubles Teams In Semifinals





Posted: Sep 28, 2008

SUMTER, S.C.- The Armstrong Atlantic State men's and women's tennis teams will feature five singles players and three doubles duos in the ITA Regional Semifinals after Sunday's second day of action at the Palmetto Tennis Center in Sumter, S.C.

The defending champion AASU women's team has three players among the four semifinal participants. Second-seeded Alida Muller-Wehlau defeated 9-16 seed Marjorie Ceppo of GCSU, 6-0, 6-0, and knocked off teammate Alisa Kagukina, 6-3, 6-0, to earn her berth in the semifinals. Joining Muller-Wehlau in the semis will be junior No. 4 seed Gabriella Kovacs, who advanced with a 6-2, 6-0 win over Valeska Ibscher of Francis Marion and a 6-4, 6-1 win over Augusta State's Nathalia Rodrigues.

Kovacs' opponent in the semifinals will be newcomer Sona Novakova, who cruised into the semifinals after knocking off top-seeded Tereza Sykorova of Francis Marion, 6-0, 6-1, and Clayton State's Katherine White, 6-1, 6-0. Muller-Wehlau will face Columbus State's Eva Petschnig in the other semifinals, to begin at 8:30 a.m. on Monday.

In doubles, top-seeded Martina Beckmann and Muller-Wehlau are in the semifinals after an 8-0 win over Erskine's duo of Bignon and Rollins and an 8-6 win over Columbus State's Castillo and Groenewald. They will meet teammates Kathleen Henry and Alisa Kagukina, who advanced with an 8-2 win over Lander's Zaia and Pajunen, as well as an 8-2 win over 5-8 seed Acuna and Ceppo of GCSU.

On the men's side, two Pirates advanced to the semifinals in singles play. Senior **Paul Bishop** made his way into the semis with a 6-3, 6-4 win over 5-8 seed Frank Suarez of Columbus State, then outlasted No. 3 seed Philip Pakebusch of Anderson, 2-6, 6-4, 7-5. Bishop's opponent in the semifinals will be freshman teammate Eudaldo Bonet, who picked up a 6-3, 6-2 win over GCSU's Francis Yoshimoto, then defeated Lander's Damien Cordesse, 6-2, 6-7, 6-0. The two will face off at 8:30 a.m. on Monday.

In doubles play, the top-seeded duo of Rafael Array and Tim Johannsen advanced to the semifinals with an 8-0 win over Augusta State's Ferraz and Zematten, then an 8-4 win over Augusta State's Mendes and Boturao.

The ITA Regional will conclude on Monday with championship matches in singles taking place at 1:00 p.m., with the doubles finals to follow. Winners of the singles and doubles draws will advance to the 2008 ITA National Small College Championships in Mobile, Ala., on October 16-19.



ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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